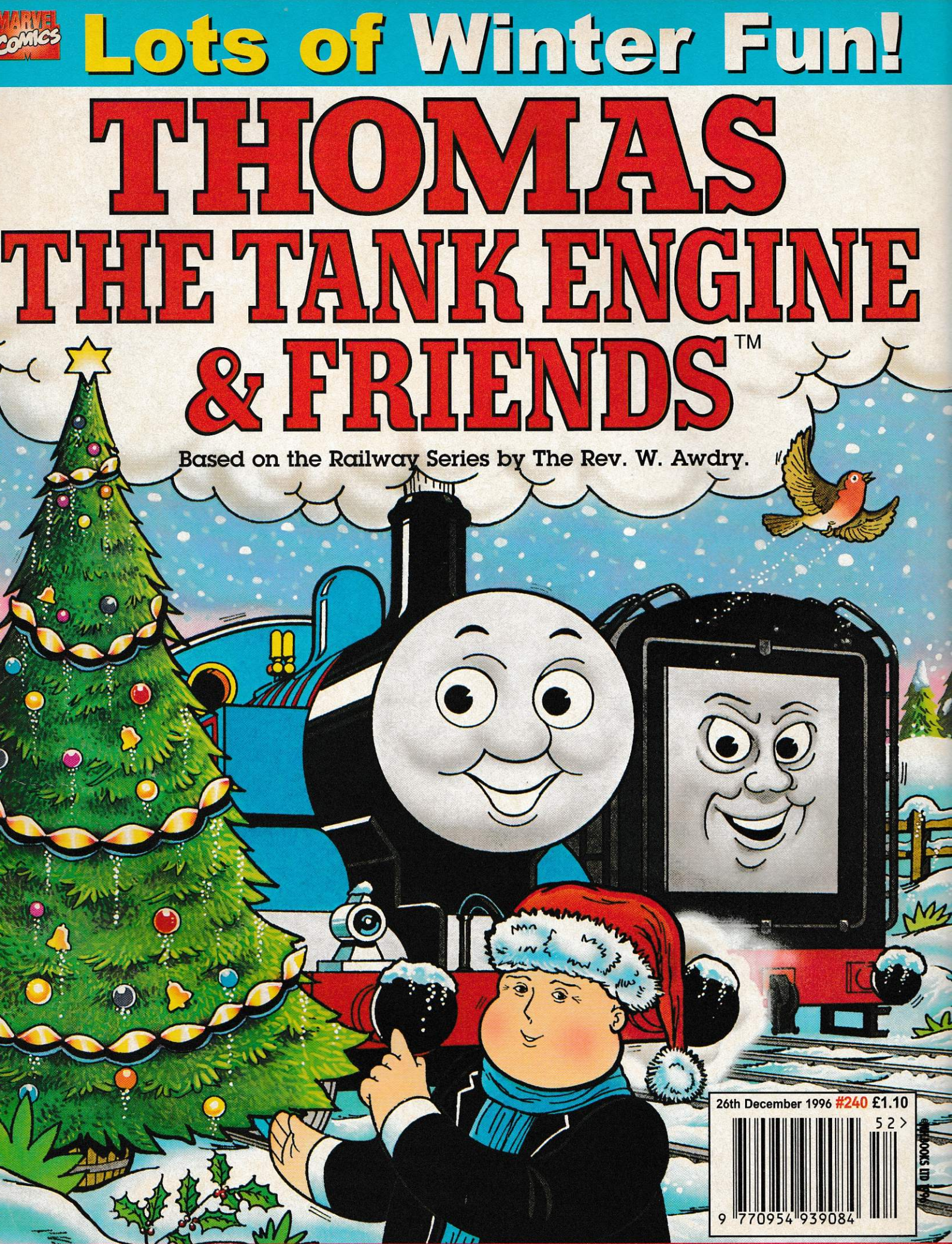
MARVEL COMICS

Lots of Winter Fun!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



26th December 1996 #240 £1.10

5 2 >

9 770954 939084

©EGMONT BOOKS LTD 1996

Great Activities! Fantastic Thomas Prizes!

Hello, everybody!

In this issue....

3 The Engine's Tree!

8 Competition!

9 Colour magic!

10 Shooting Star!

12 The Special Gift!

16 All about the Carriages!

18 Playing in the Snow!

21 True or False?

22 Competition!

23 Join the Dots!

24 A Christmas Treat!

30 Mail train!

Island of Sodor Railway

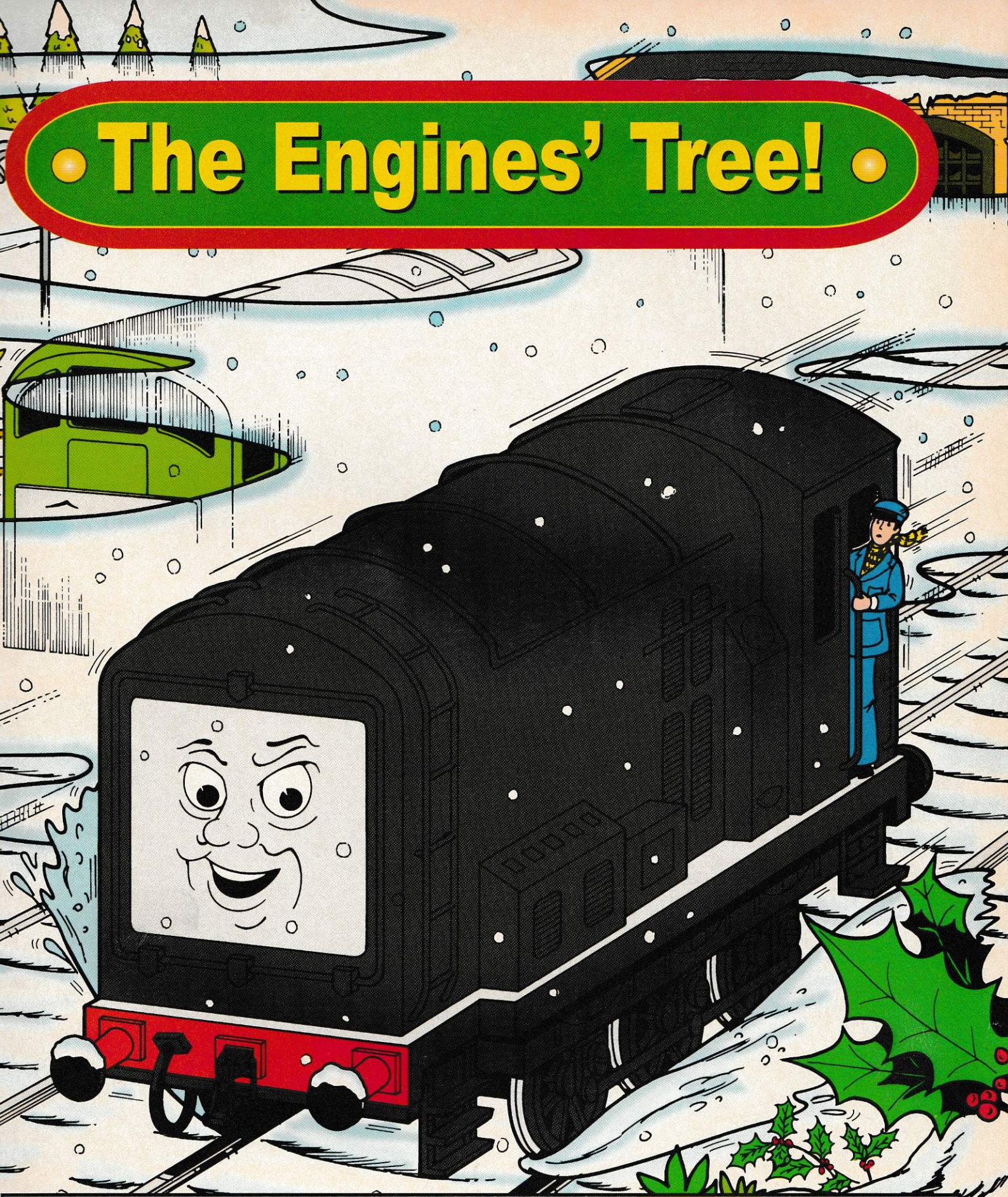
This comic belongs to .....

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS, a division of PANINI UK LTD. Managing Director:Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial team: Catherine Ard & Karen Brown; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Designer: Giselle & Jane; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555.

ISSN 0954-9390.

The Engines' Tree!

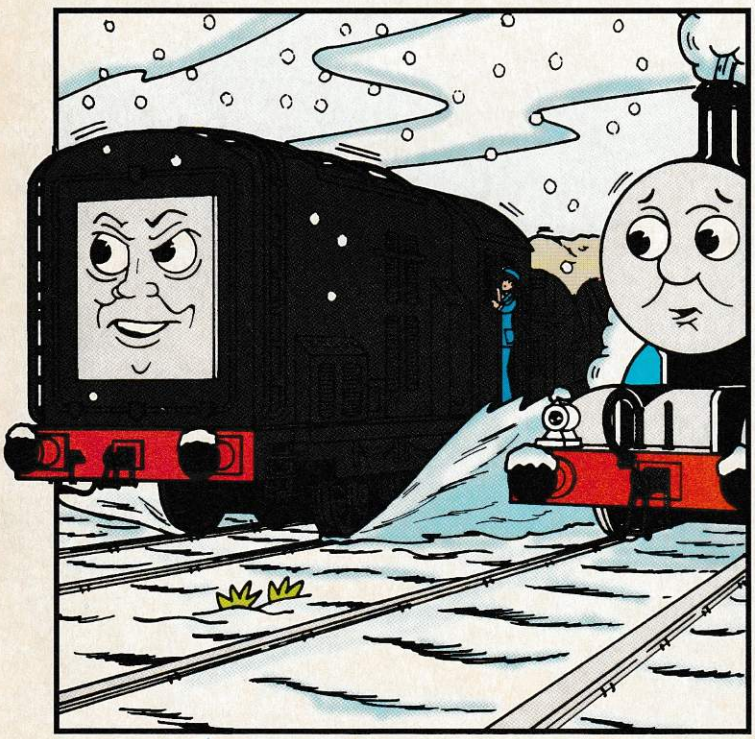


1.Snow and fog covered the Island of Sodor. The Fat Controller warned his engines to go carefully with their Christmas loads. "We need to go faster not slower," grumbled Diesel.

2. "How else will we get all our work done?" he added, in his oily voice. The rails were very slippery and Diesel couldn't see clearly. But he hurtled about at full speed!

3. The extra work and bad weather had put all the engines in a gloomy mood. "We'll have a Christmas party tonight to cheer you up!" the Fat Controller told them.

4. The engines could hardly wait! They felt much happier already. The Fat Controller asked Thomas to fetch a Christmas tree. "We can't have a party without one," he said.



5. Thomas watched Diesel hurtle off to deliver a goods train. "You'll have an accident if you don't slow down!" he cried. "Rubbish!" hissed Diesel as he steamed on his way.

6. The deeper he travelled into the countryside, the thicker the fog and snow became. At last, Thomas couldn't go any further. "We'll have to turn back," shouted his driver.

7. "Everyone will be disappointed if I don't bring a tree back," thought Thomas. Diesel was also returning. He raced recklessly through the fog, into a tight bend near a junction.

8. Just ahead, a snow covered fir tree had fallen onto the track. Diesel wasn't paying attention. "Look out!" cried his driver. Diesel braked hard but he skidded down the track.

9. Diesel ran right over the top part of the tree! He was so heavy, his wheels cut it in two. Luckily, Diesel wasn't derailed but he was leaking oil and could hardly move.

10. Then Thomas arrived, on his way back to the Main Station. He changed lines to help Diesel. Thomas saw the top of the fir tree and had an idea. "That's just want we need!" he said.

11. Thomas' driver arranged to have the tree lifted into Thomas' truck. Next, Thomas pulled the rest of the fallen tree safely away from the bend. "All finished!" he puffed.

12. "Hey! Don't leave me out here alone in the snow and fog!" howled Diesel. "Give me a pull, too." "All right," replied Thomas. "Besides, you've done everyone a big favour."

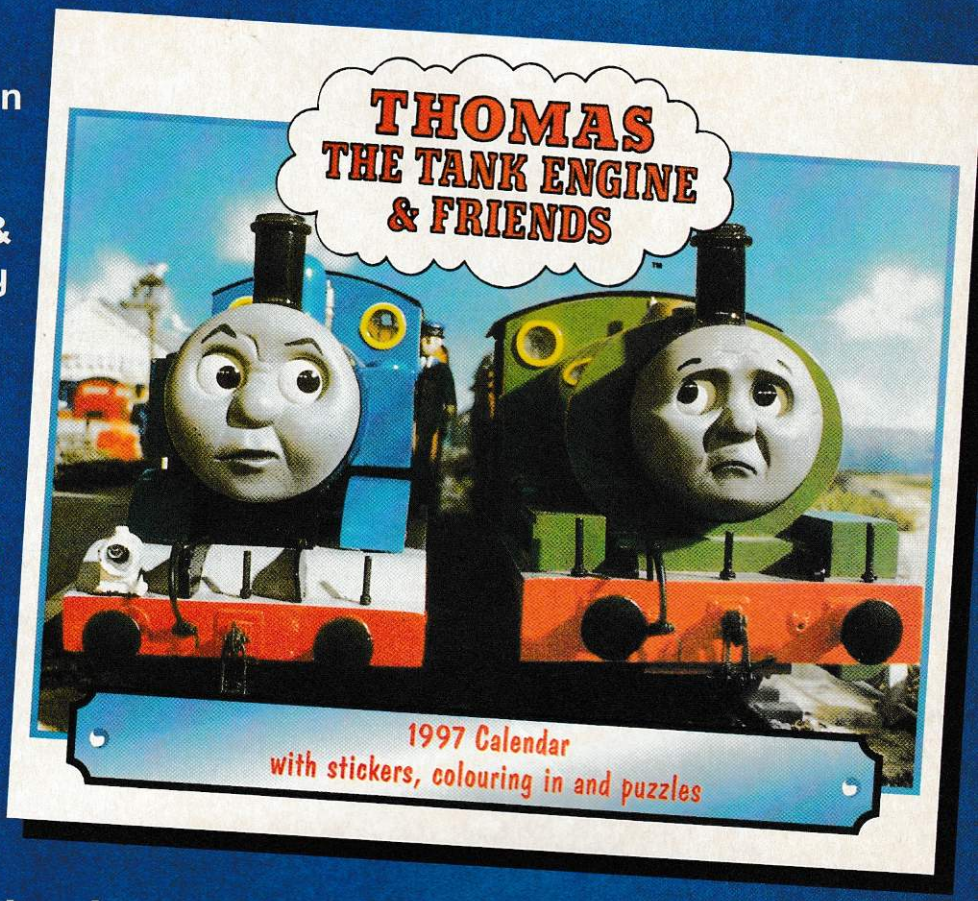
13. Diesel didn't understand until later. The top of the fir tree was put up in the engine shed and hung with lights and shiny decorations. It made a wonderful Christmas tree.

14. "It's all thanks to your accident, Diesel," smiled Thomas. "Well, I won't go so fast again," he replied. Pleased to be safe, Diesel even joined in the party fun!

WIN a calendar!

Enter our great competition and you could win one of these fantastic new Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends 1997 Calendars by Judges Postcards Ltd.

Each calendar has 12 photographs of Thomas & his friends, colouring-in and puzzles for you to do! You'll also receive a sheet of stickers to stick on your calendar to remind you about important occasions!



To win, simply answer this question:

If you added Thomas' & Edward's numbers together, what would you get?

Send your answer on a postcard to: Thomas/Calendar Offer, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach & Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

The first 25 correct entries to be drawn after 5th January 1997 will win a calendar!

You can purchase a calendar anytime! Just send a £5.00 cheque or postal order (including postage & packaging) made payable to: Judges Postcards Ltd, 176 Bexhill Rd, St Leonards-on-Sea, E Sussex, TN38 8BN.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Colour Magic!

What's hidden in the picture? Find out by filling in the shapes with the colours listed below!

1. Red **2.** Green **3.** Yellow **4.** Blue

Shooting Star

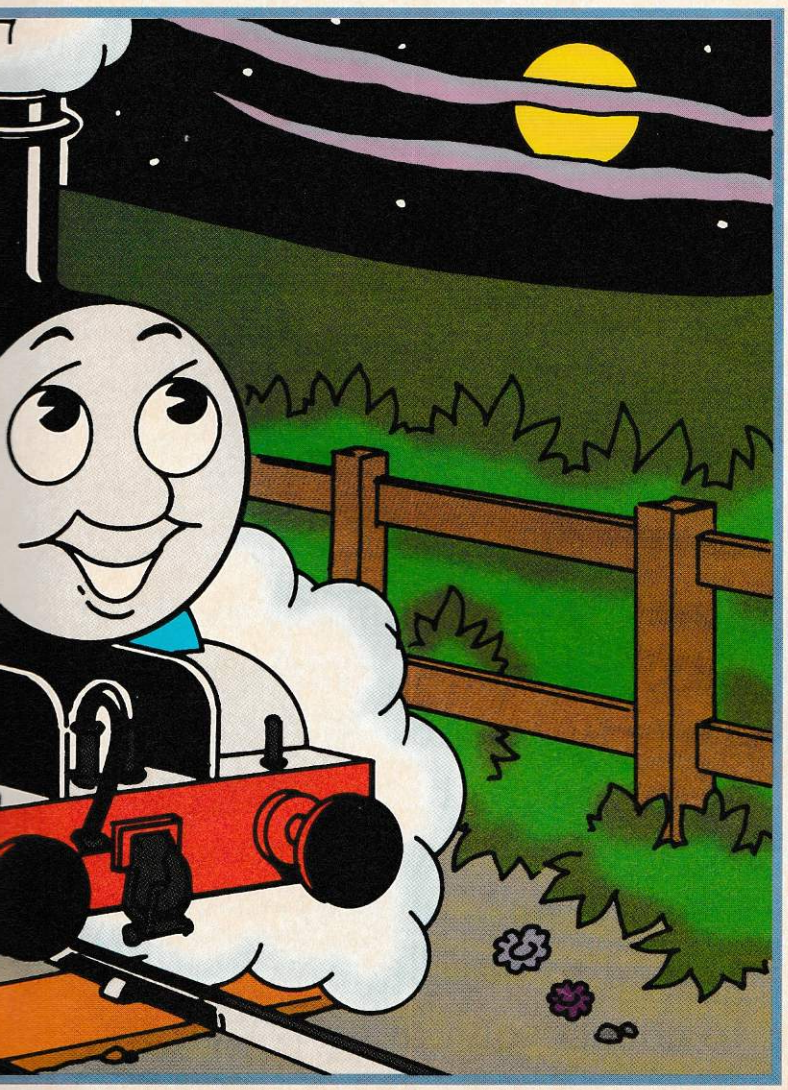
On a clear winter's night, Thomas was making his final, weary journey of the day, homeward. There had been a biting wind blowing in from the sea all day, and all the poor little engine could think about was getting back inside his nice warm shed.

Then, up in the sky, he suddenly saw something so beautiful it made him gasp...a shooting star! He gazed at it in amazement as it sparkled across the sky. It was a rare and lovely sight, but it was there and gone in a flash! "You must make a wish!" said his driver. "People say that if you wish on a star your dream might come true!" "I'll make a wish now!" Thomas replied, closing his eyes and wishing with all his might. "Don't tell anyone what you wished for," warned his driver, wagging his finger, "because it breaks the magic!"

Back at the main station, all the other engines were excited to hear about the shooting star. Duck said he had seen a starfish once, down on the beach, but Gordon said that didn't count. Percy was especially curious about Thomas' story. When he and Thomas were alone, Percy asked him about his wish. "Go on," whispered the young

engine eagerly. "Tell me what you asked for - I'll keep it a secret!" "I'd better not," replied Thomas. "You can't take any chances with magic!"

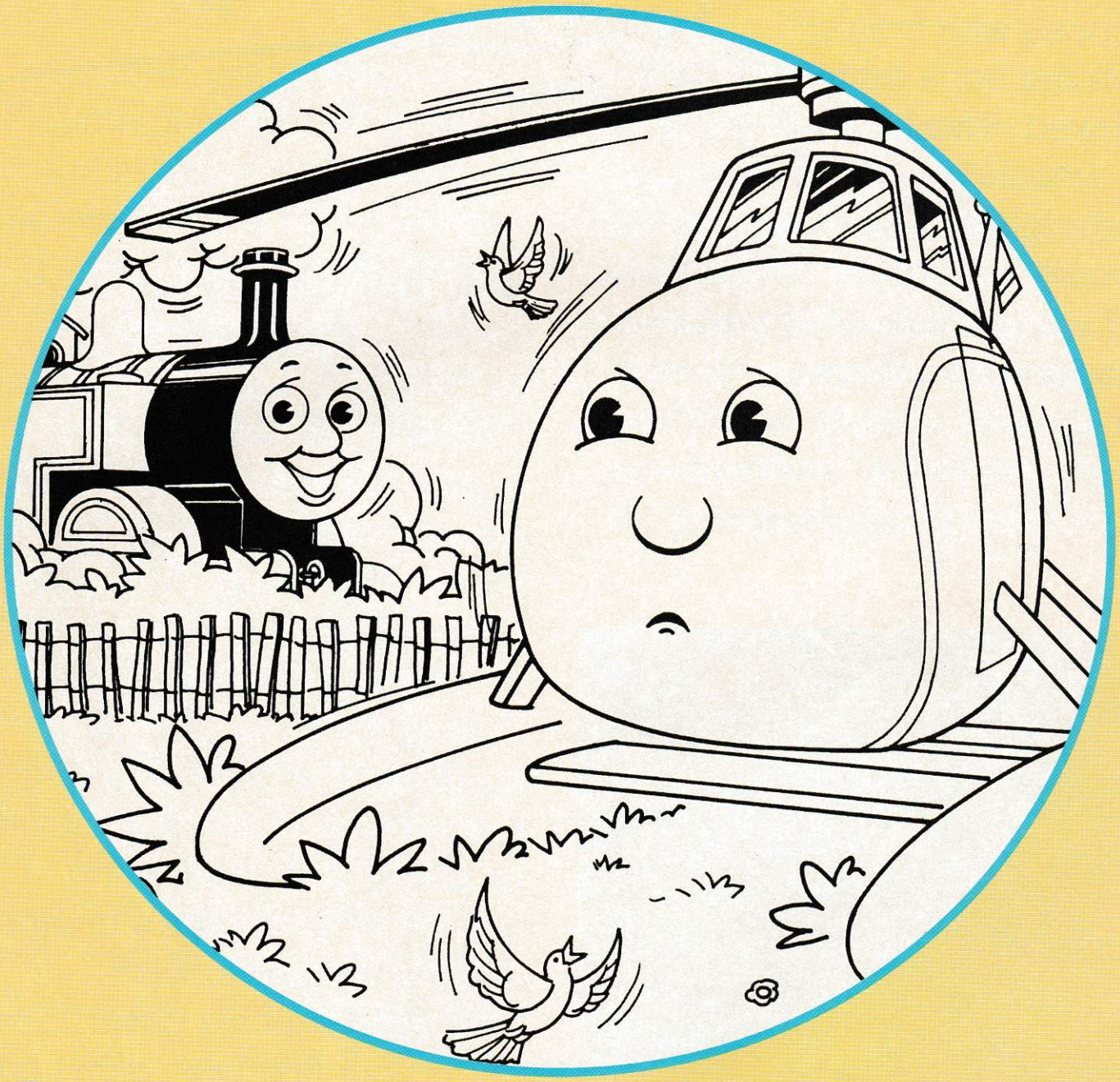
In the days that followed, Thomas' driver wondered what the little engine's wish was, and if it would come true. If Thomas had wished for sunny weather, it certainly didn't arrive - it was a miserable, drizzly week! If he had wished for a chance to prove how Really Useful he was, then no such chance arrived - nothing exciting or surprising happened at all! And if he had wished for some bright new paintwork, that didn't happen either - in fact Thomas had a very tough, dirty week doing all sorts of dreary jobs!



One night as they were puffing home, to the driver's surprise, a second shooting star blazed across the sky, leaving its pretty trail shimmering behind it! "Well here's another chance for you to wish, Thomas," said his driver. "I'm sorry your first wish didn't come true!" "But it just did," replied Thomas, smiling with delight. "I thought the first shooting star was so beautiful, my wish was to see another one!"

A read & colour story

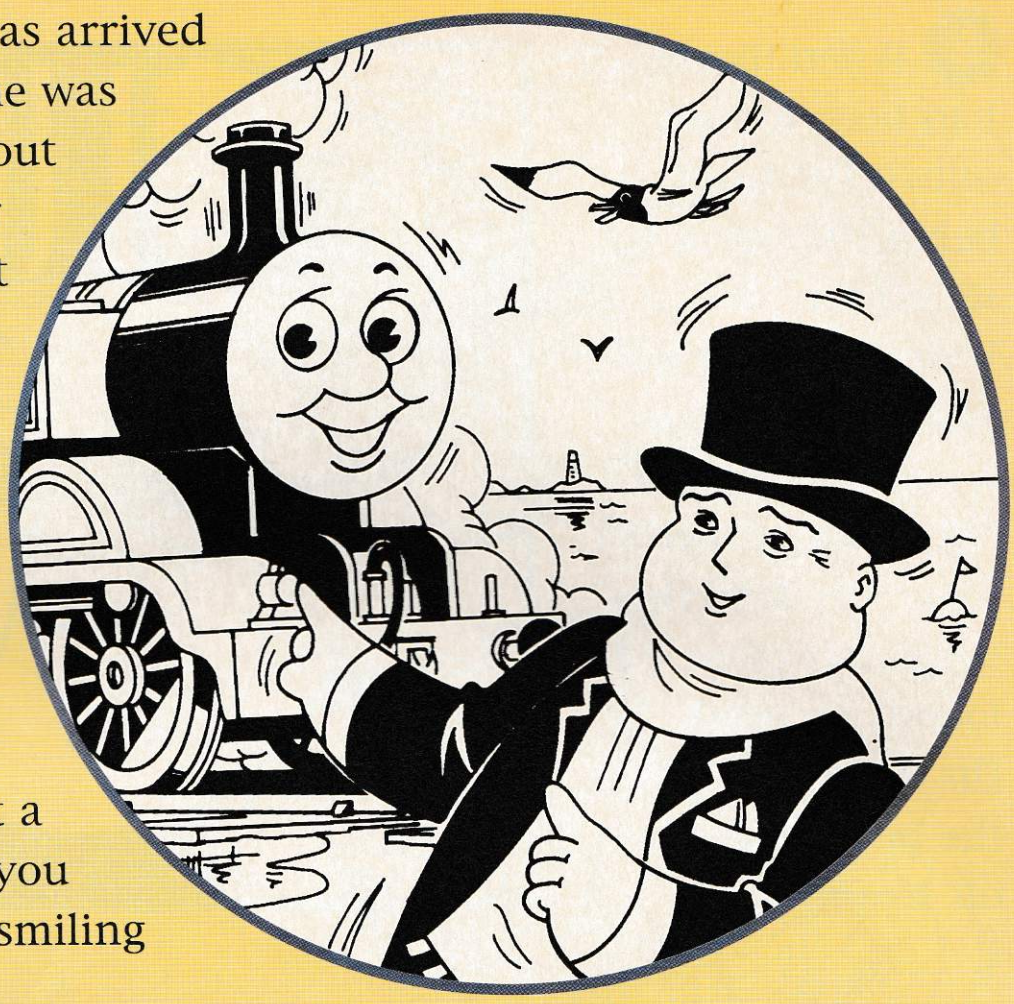
The Special Gift!

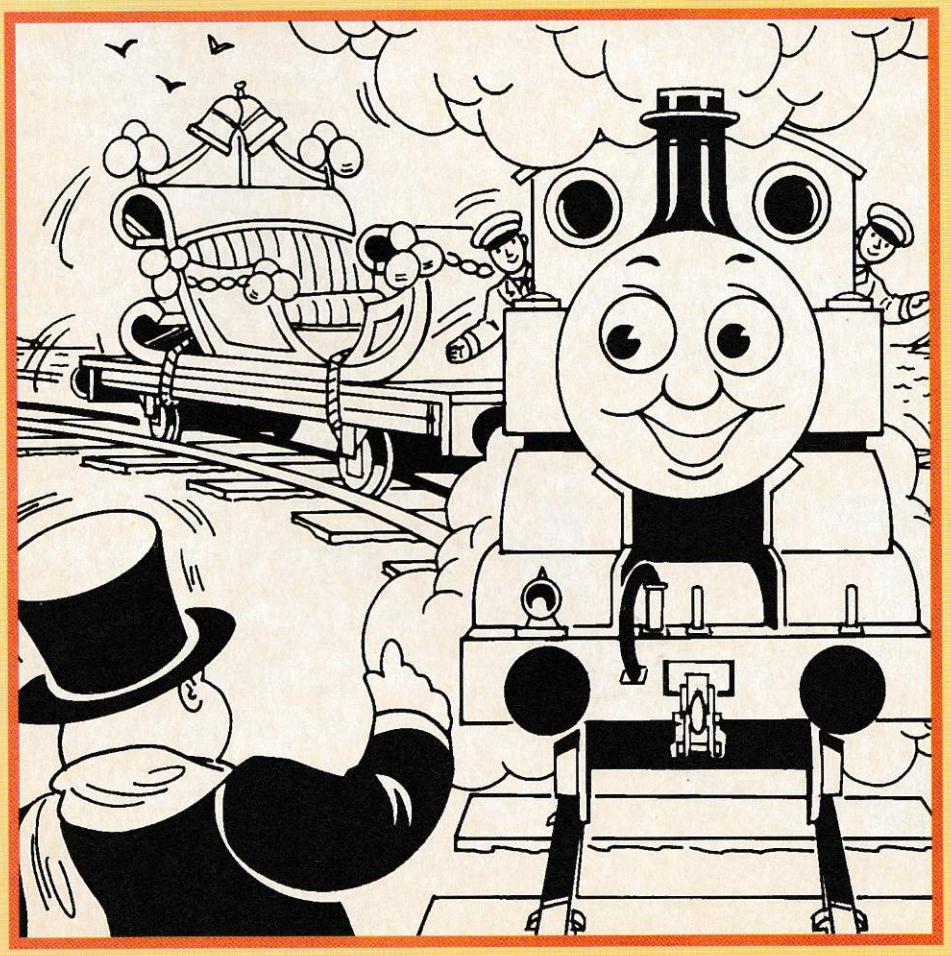


1 One chilly morning in December, when the sky was full of dark snow clouds, Thomas puffed passed the airfield. "Peep, peep! Morning Harold!" he whistled to his friend the helicopter. "It looks like it'll be a white Christmas."

Harold looked glum. "Yes, worst luck!" he replied. "I hardly ever get to fly in bad weather. I have to stay in my hangar. It's really boring." Thomas wished he had time to cheer up his friend, but he had to hurry to the harbour to collect something important.

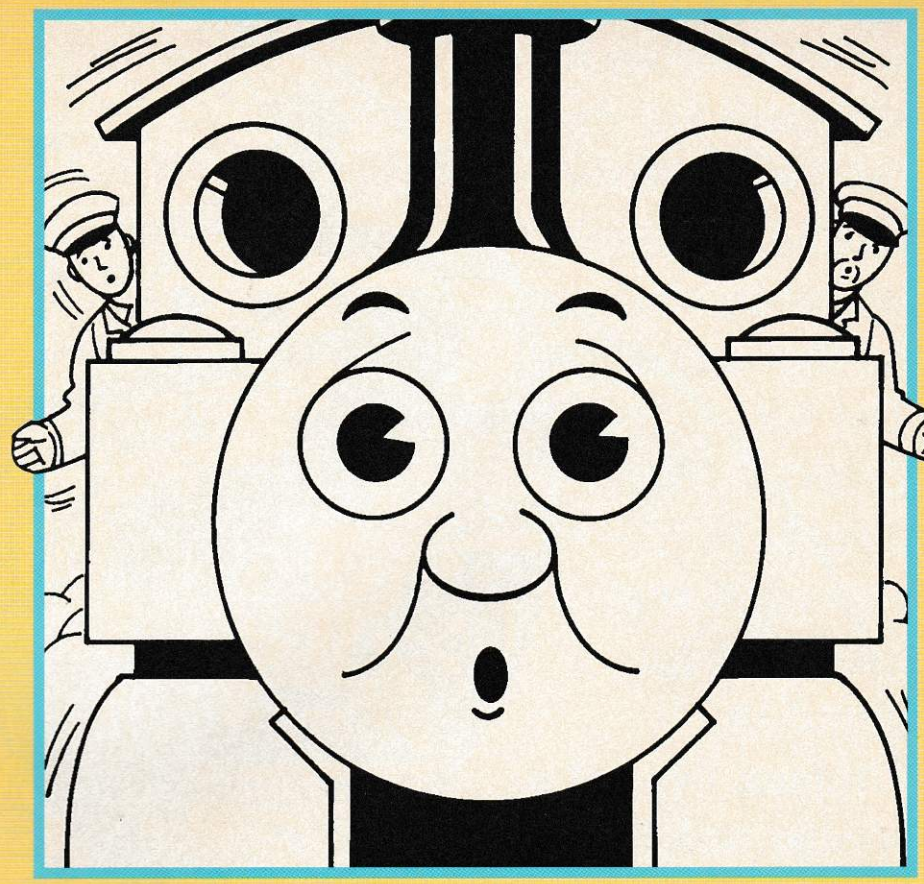
2 When Thomas arrived at the harbour he was still thinking about his friend. "Poor Harold! He won't be happy until he flies again." The Fat Controller was already waiting at the quay-side for him. "Ah, Thomas, I've got a special task for you to do," he said, smiling at him.

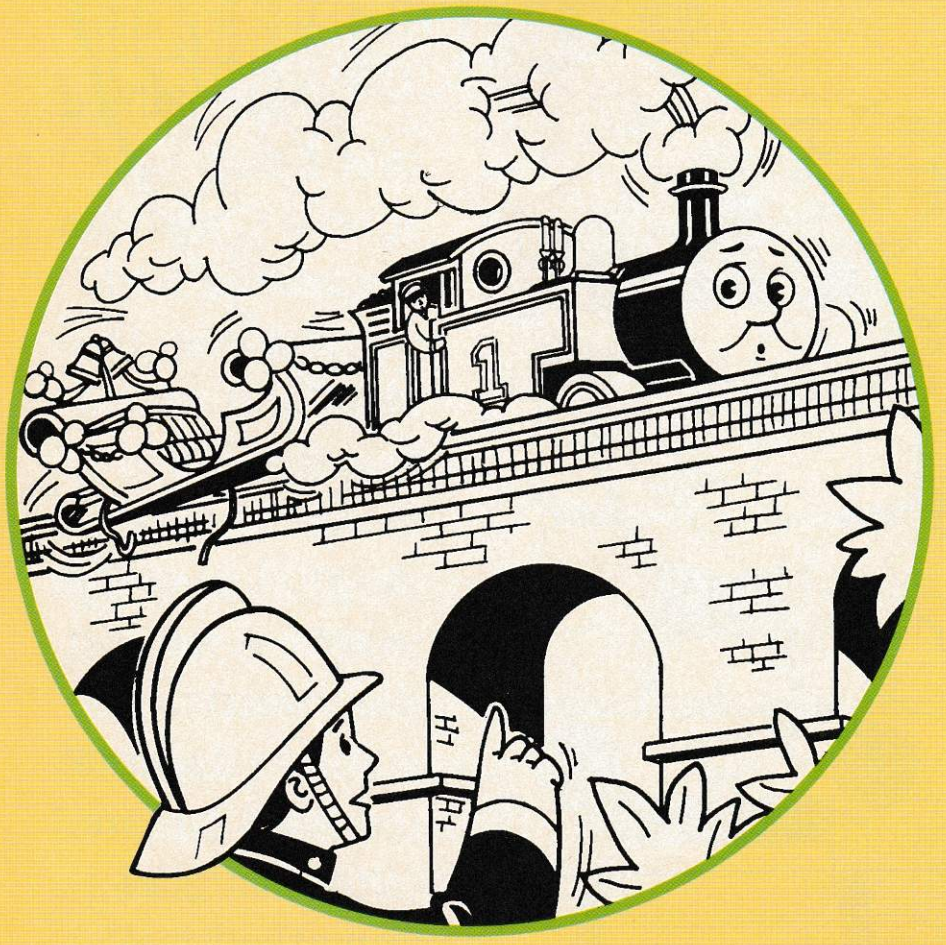




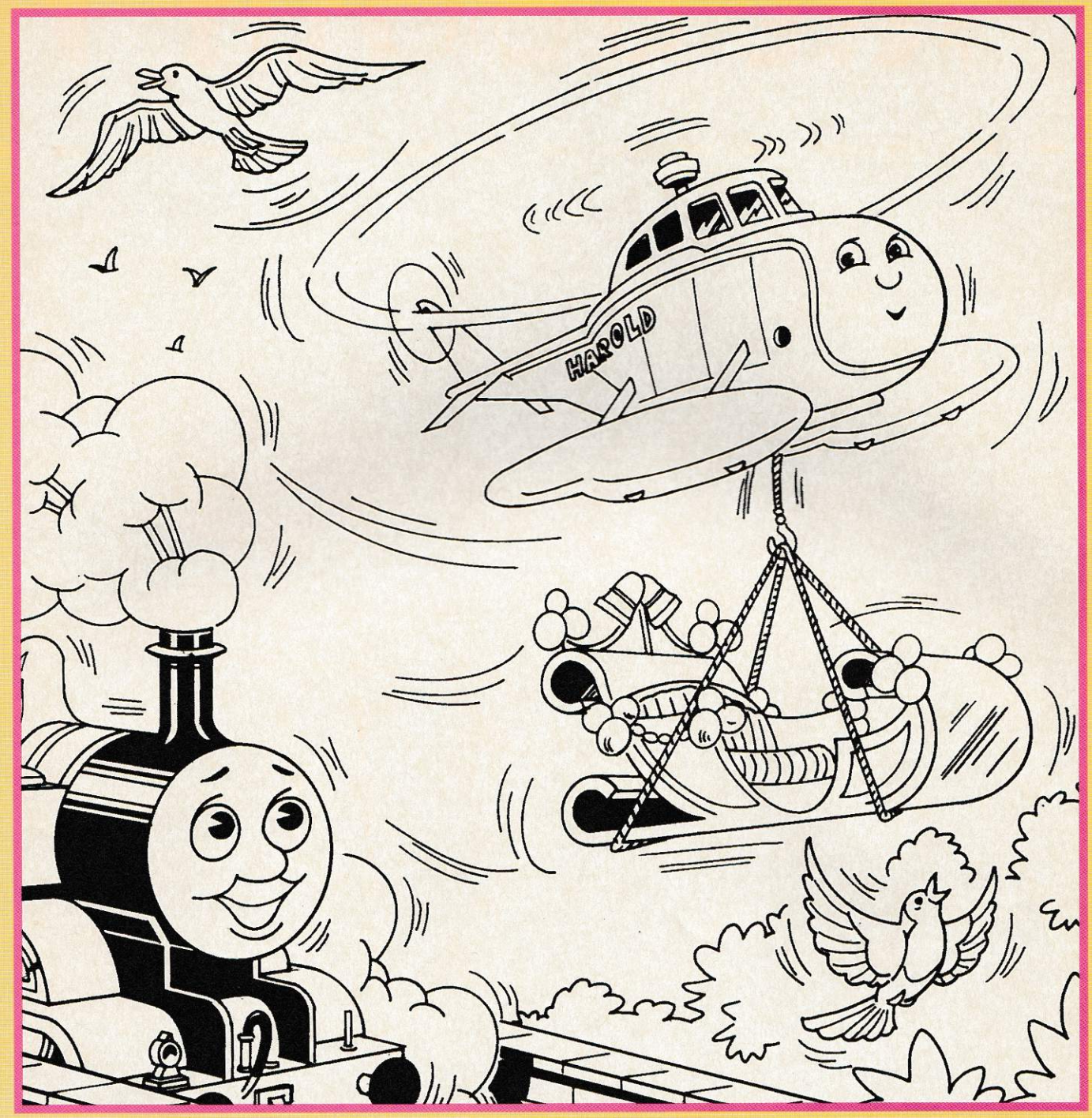
3 He explained that a very special Christmas decoration had arrived from the Mainland. "It's a wooden model of Father Christmas' Sleigh. I need you to take it to Wellsworth - it's going to decorate the Main Square." "Ooh! I'm glad you asked me!" said Thomas.

4 When the sleigh had been loaded onto a flat truck behind Thomas, he set off for Wellsworth. He was just about to cross a viaduct when he felt a judder behind him. "Oh dear, the sleigh has come loose!" he cried. His driver applied the brake and shut off steam.





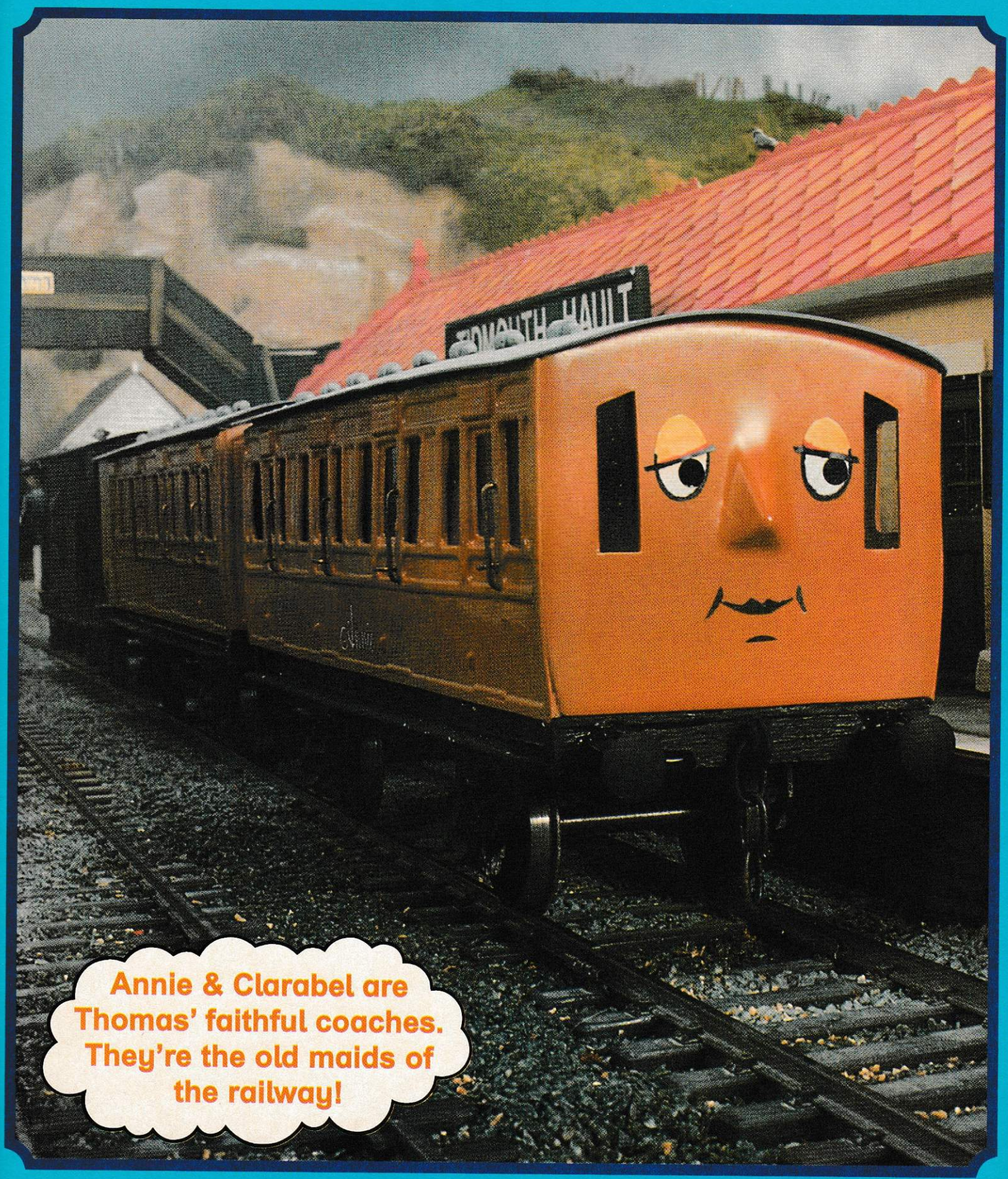
5 Thomas stopped halfway over the viaduct. The sleigh was balanced dangerously on the truck. "It's too heavy for us to move - we need the crane," Thomas' driver told the fireman. "But it will take hours for another engine to bring it from the harbour and we're blocking the busy line!" the fireman replied. Thomas whistled loudly. He had an idea!



6 A telephone call from the nearest signal box brought Harold to the rescue. "I thought you'd enjoy helping," Thomas called to the little helicopter. "Thank you, Thomas!" answered Harold. He used his winch to lift the sleigh up into the air. It looked like it was really flying! Then Harold carefully lowered it back onto the truck. They all cheered. "This really is the most exciting Christmas present I've ever had!" smiled Harold proudly.

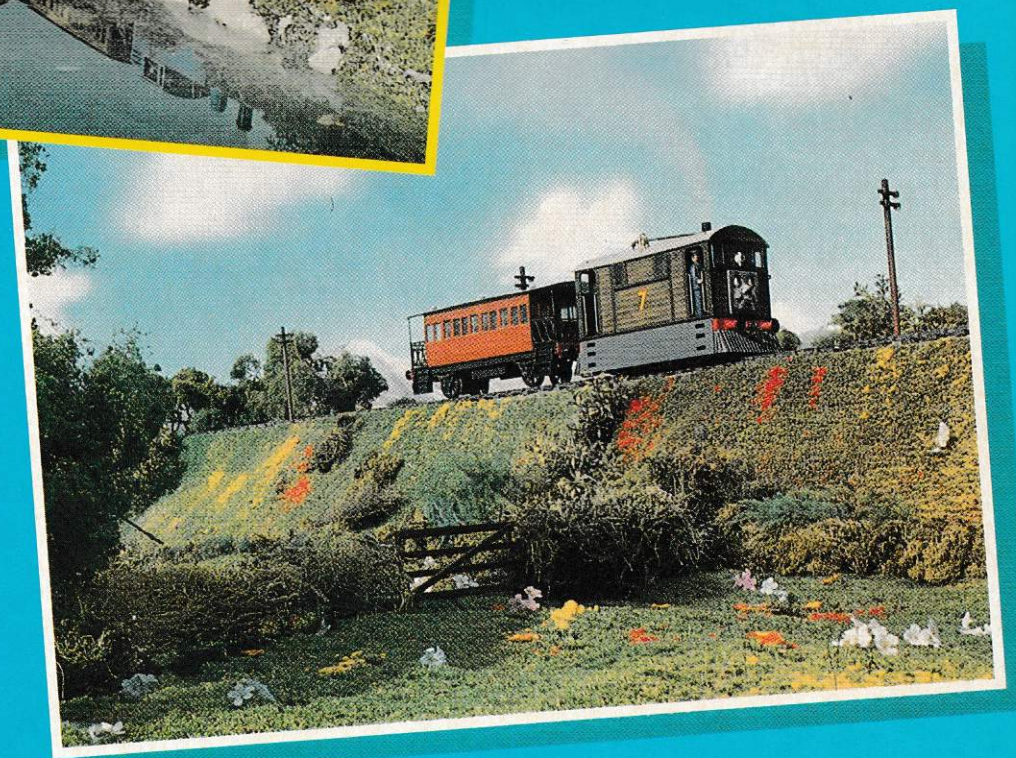
The end

All about th


Annie & Clarabel are Thomas' faithful coaches. They're the old maids of the railway!

e Carriages!

They were given to Thomas as a reward for being a Really Useful Engine.

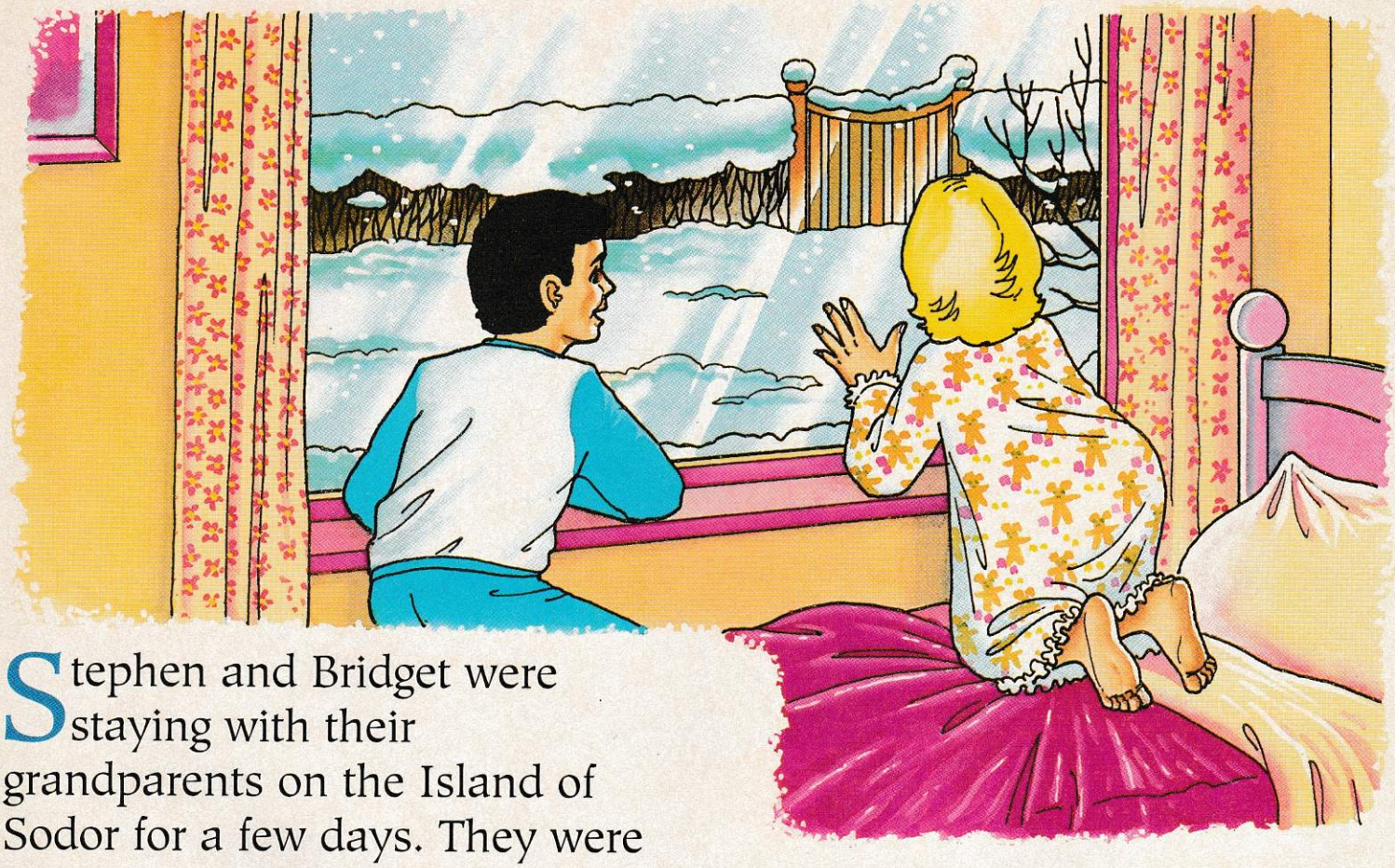


Henrietta is Toby's coach. She rarely carries passengers but she is very happy!

Win a model Carriage!

Five lucky winners will win 2 splendid model Carriages from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Carriage model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ. Closing date: 5th January 1997. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Carriages!

Playing in the Snow



Stephen and Bridget were staying with their grandparents on the Island of Sodor for a few days. They were very excited when they woke up one morning and saw that the ground was covered in crisp, white snow. "Look it's been snowing!" said Bridget. "Doesn't it look lovely?" "Can we go out and play in it?" asked Stephen.

"Of course you can," smiled Lady Hatt. "But wrap up warm."

So the two children put on their thick coats, boots and mittens and ran out to play in the snow.

"Let's have a snowball fight," suggested Bridget. She scooped up a handful of snow and threw it at Stephen. Splat! It hit him on the back. "Got you!" she laughed. "You wait!" Stephen said, throwing a snowball back at her - but the snowball hit Thomas who had just come chugging past. "Uurgh! What that? he spluttered."Ooops! Sorry, Thomas!" called Bridget.

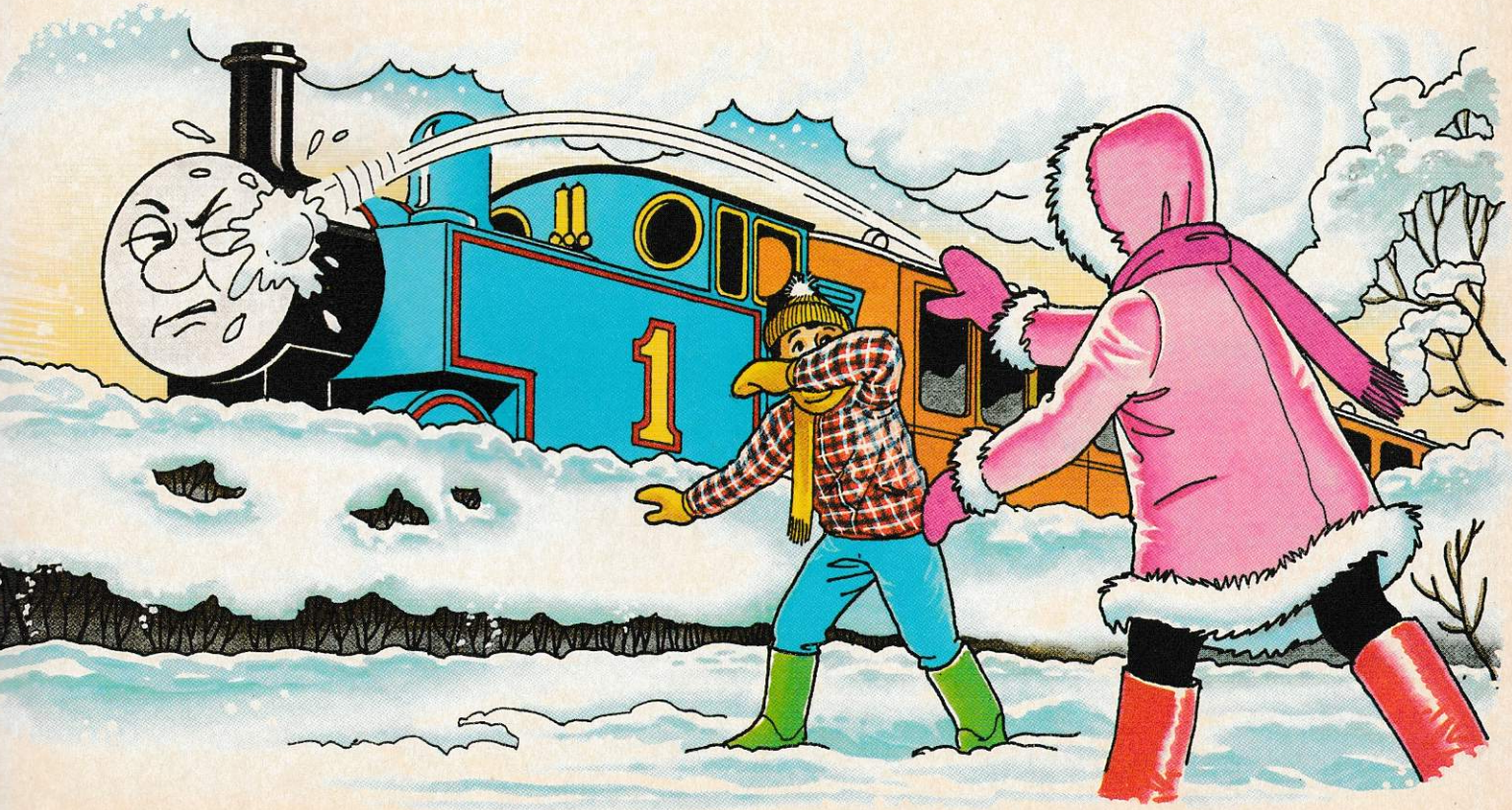
"I meant to throw it at Stephen!" "That's all right," smiled the little tank engine. He was a good-natured engine and knew the children were only having a bit of fun.

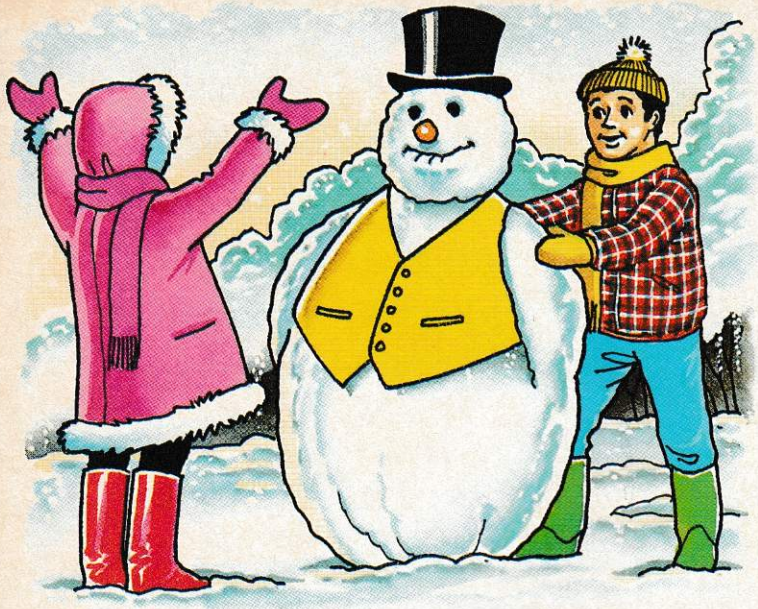
"It's a good job Thomas can't throw snowballs!" laughed Bridget. "Or he might throw one back at you!"

"Peep! Peep!" Thomas whistled as he puffed on past. He wouldn't have minded playing with the children, but he had some passengers to take to the other side of the Island. Bridget and Stephen waved at him and carried on with their snowball fight.

After a while, they got fed up of playing with snowballs and decided to build a snowman. They rolled a big, fat, snowball for his body and put a smaller snowball on top for his head.

Lady Hatt came out to see how they were getting on. "That's a very good snowman," she said, "Let's see if I can find something to dress him up with." She returned a few minutes later with one of the Fat Controller's hats to put on the





snowman's head, some buttons for his eyes and an old yellow waistcoat. "There you are," she said. "Thank you," smiled the children happily. They were delighted! Now their snowman looked really good.

Thomas saw Bridget and Stephen dancing around their snowman when he puffed past on his way back to the Main Station."Peep, peep!" he whistled. "That snowman looks just like the Fat Controller!" he chuckled, stopping to have a better look.

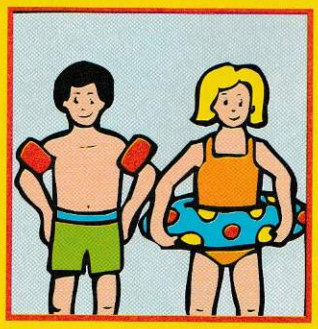
Suddenly, Thomas' wheels skidded on the track and some snow shot off. Splat! The snow hit Stephen on the back of his head! "Who threw that snowball at me?" asked Stephen, turning around in surprise. "Sorry!" called Thomas. "My wheels skidded in the snow!"

Bridget laughed at her brother. "So Thomas can throw snowballs after all!" she said

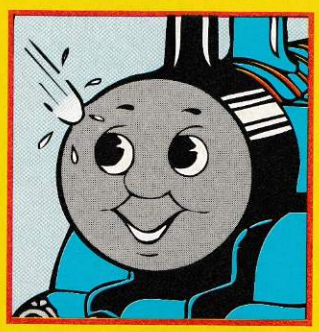
THE END

True or false!

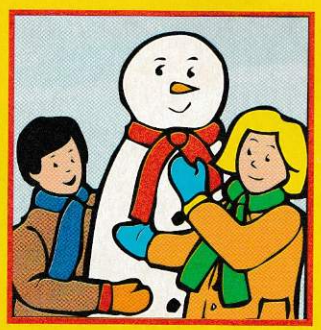
You have just read about Stephen and Bridget's fun in the snow. Can you remember what happened? Answer the 5 questions below by putting a tick in the correct box.



	True	False
Stephen and Bridget got ready to go swimming.		



	True	False
Bridget threw a snowball which hit Thomas.		

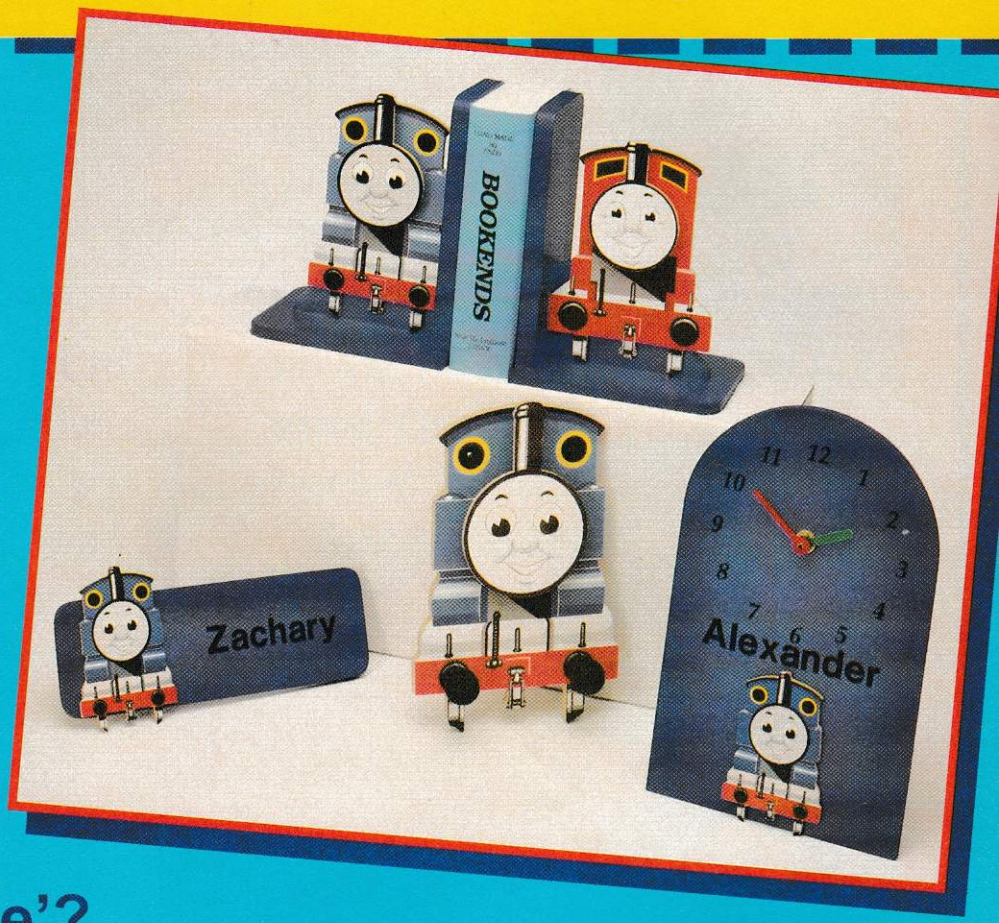


	True	False
The children built a snowman together.		

	True	False
Lady Hatt put a saucepan on the snowman's head.		

	True	False
Thomas skidded and spattered Stephen with some snow		

Decorate your room with THOMAS!



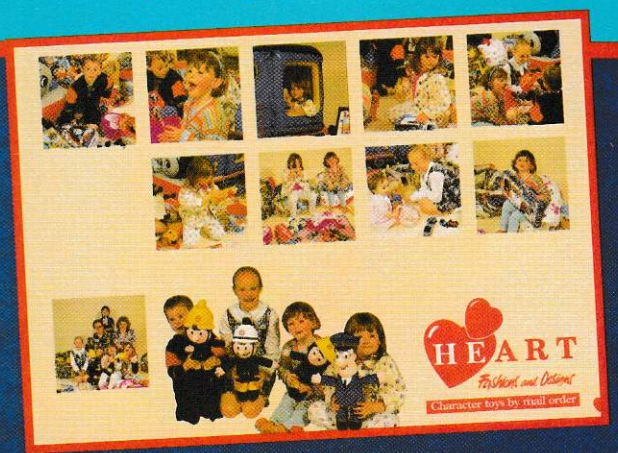
6 lucky winners will receive a Thomas wooden clock, a coatpeg, bookends and a nameplate. You will even have your name put on the clock and the nameplate!

To win this amazing prize, all you have to do is tell us:

What is 'Bulstrode'?

a) An engine b) A boat c) A helicopter

Send your entry on a postcard with your name and address to: Thomas/240 competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W Midlands, WS9 9LR. All entries must be received by 10th January 1997. Please print your name clearly on your entry!

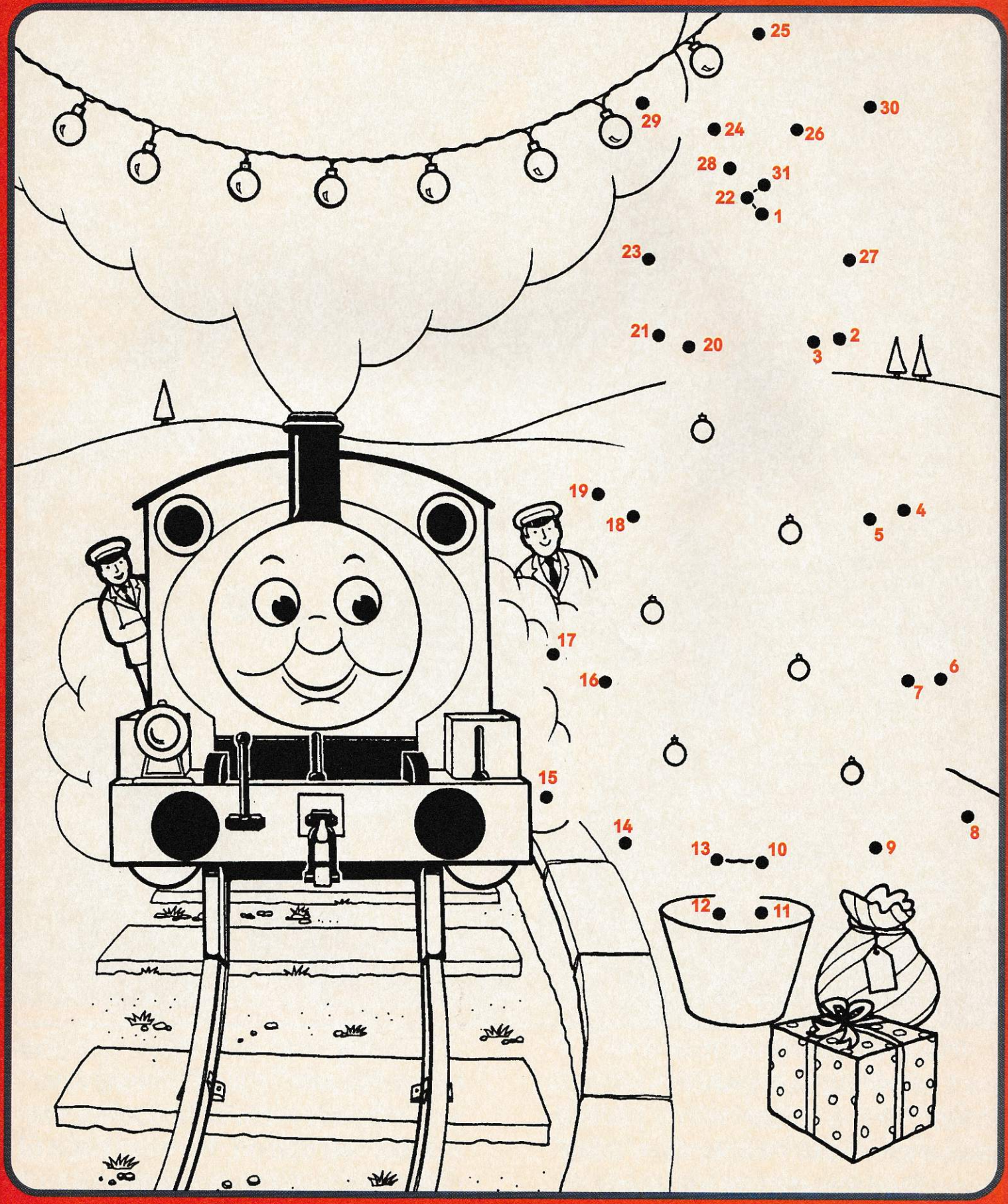


Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 150 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 240, or write to them at the competition address above.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

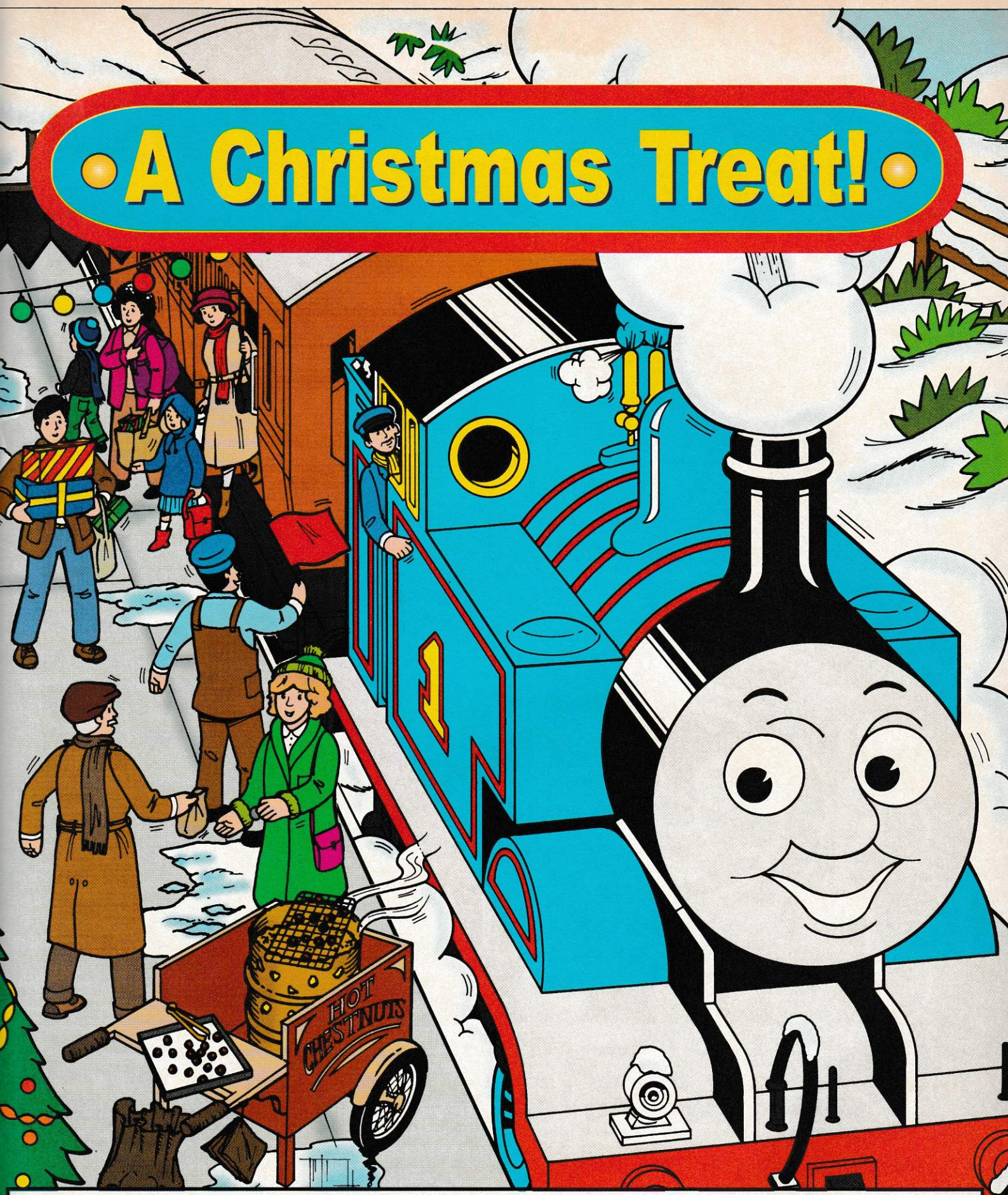
Dot to dot!

Can you see what Percy's looking at? Join the dots and find out!



When you have finished colour this page!

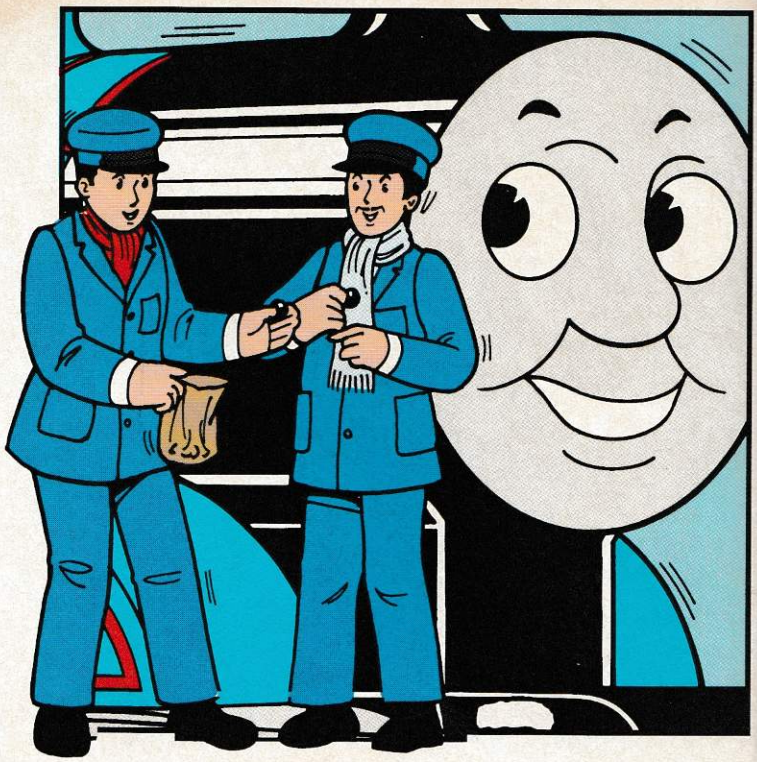
A Christmas Treat!



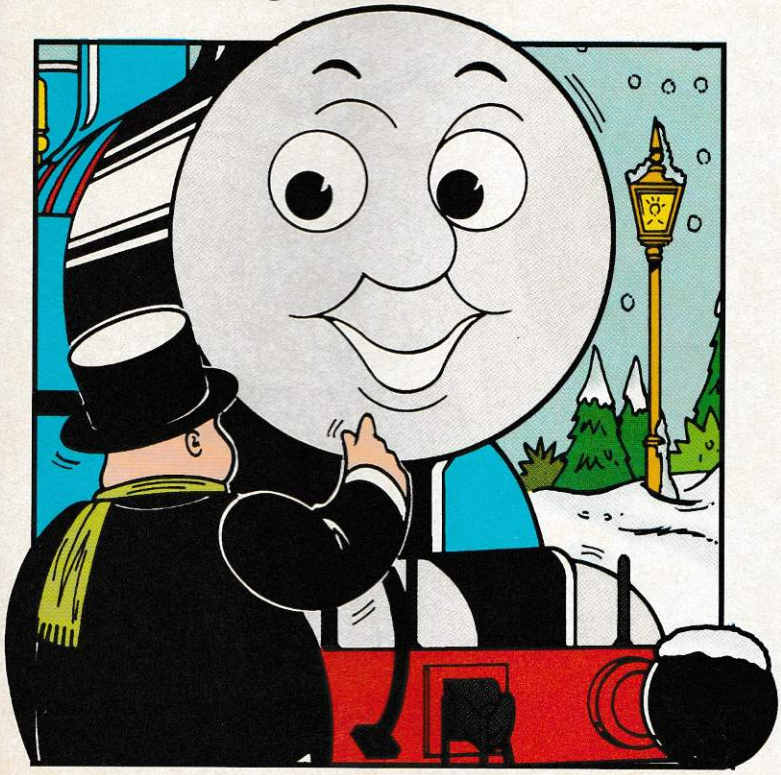
1. It was almost Christmas and thick snow lay everywhere. Thomas rolled into the station with a packed passenger train. People were busy doing their last-minute shopping.

2. "Lovely roast chestnuts! Get your hot chestnuts!" called a man, who was cooking them on a special fire outside the station. He sold bags of chestnuts to some passengers.

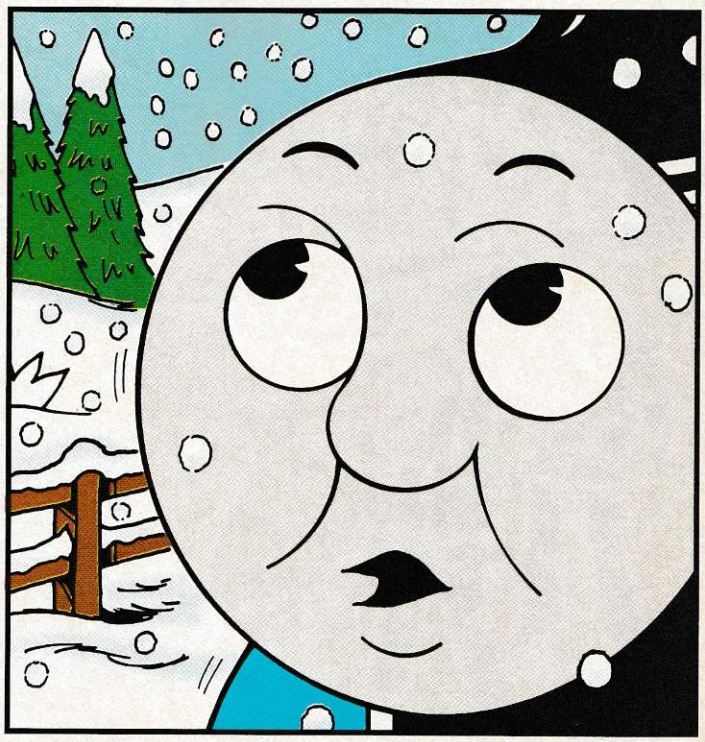
3. While Thomas' wheels were being oiled, his crew bought some roast chestnuts. The crew carefully peeled off the nuts' shells and ate the hot, tasty nuts inside.



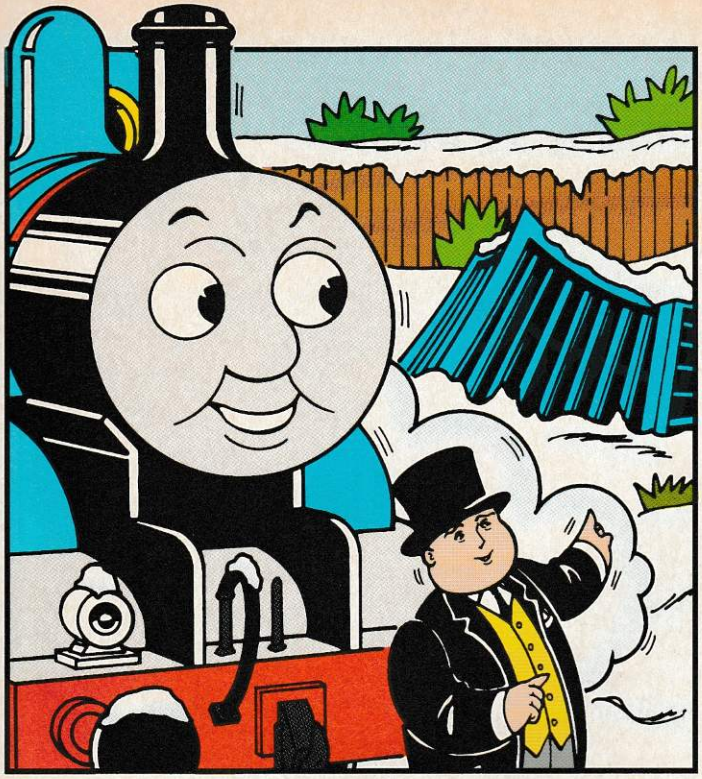
4. "M'mm! Delicious!" smiled Thomas' driver. "These'll soon warm us up!" "My boiler does that for me," replied Thomas, feeling its warm glow. "I don't need chestnuts."



5. The hot-chestnut man was there again on Christmas Eve. The snow was even heavier now. The Fat Controller spoke to Thomas. "I've a special job for you, this afternoon."



6. The little tank engine was going to take some carol singers to a concert at Wellsworth's town hall. "I hope I can get through with all this snow," said Thomas, anxiously.



7. "Don't worry," replied the kindly Fat Controller. "You'll be fitted with a snowplough." Thomas felt much happier. He knew he could use it to push the snow off the railway line.

8. The carol singers soon arrived for their trip. The hot-chestnut man was going to Wellsworth, too. "I can sell chestnuts by the town hall," he said. He still had lots more to roast.

9. When everyone was aboard Annie and Clarabel, Thomas got underway. He steamed bravely through the snow, but soon came to a halt at some frozen points.

10. His driver had an idea. "We'll use the hot water from Thomas' boiler to melt the ice on them," he said. It was getting very cold but the passengers waited patiently.

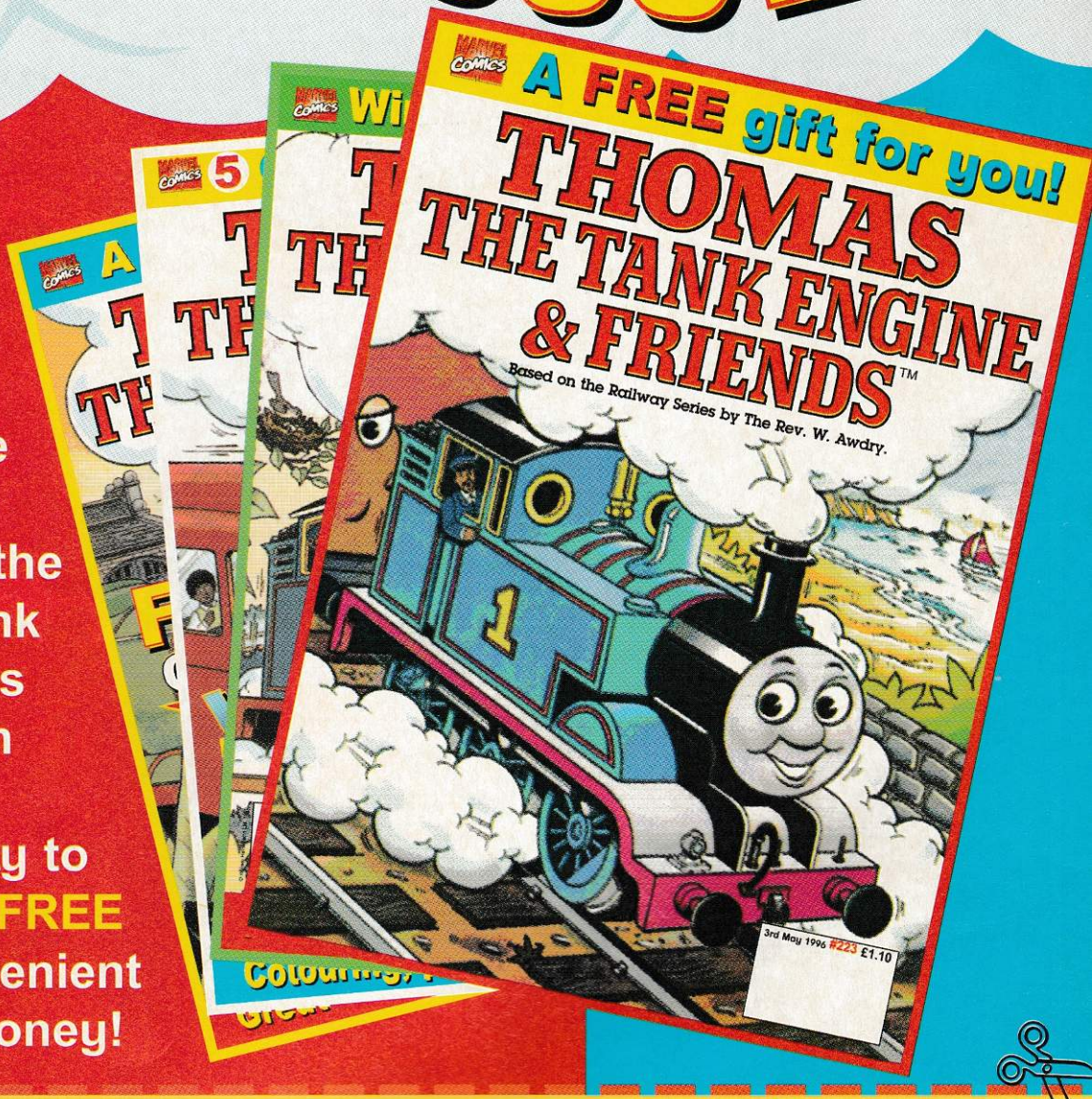
11. "What everyone needs are some nice, hot chestnuts to eat," the seller told Thomas' guard. When Thomas heard, he knew what to do. Some chestnuts were brought to Thomas' cab. The fireman carefully put them on his metal shovel inside Thomas' firebox. The chestnuts quickly roasted and were then handed round. They were delicious!

12. Thomas' passengers felt warm and cheerful again. They even began to sing carols. Thomas was soon ready to set off once more. Luckily, he was only a little late arriving at Wellsworth. "A Merry Christmas and thanks for the chestnuts!" the singers called. "Thank Thomas!" the hot-chestnut man smiled. "He cooked them perfectly!" Thomas smiled.

2 FREE ISSUES

"Calling all parents!"

Why not take out a subscription to the Thomas The Tank Engine & Friends magazine? Each issue can be delivered directly to your front door FREE of charge! Convenient and value for money!



Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends and receive 2 extra issues absolutely FREE!
I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 12 months (25th & 26th Issue FREE) for £26.40. Postage and packaging is FREE!

Child's name.....**Address**.....

.....

Post code..... **Date of birth**.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Panini UK Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my **Visa/Mastercard or call credit card hotline on 01858 410510.**

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... **Address (if different from child's)**

.....

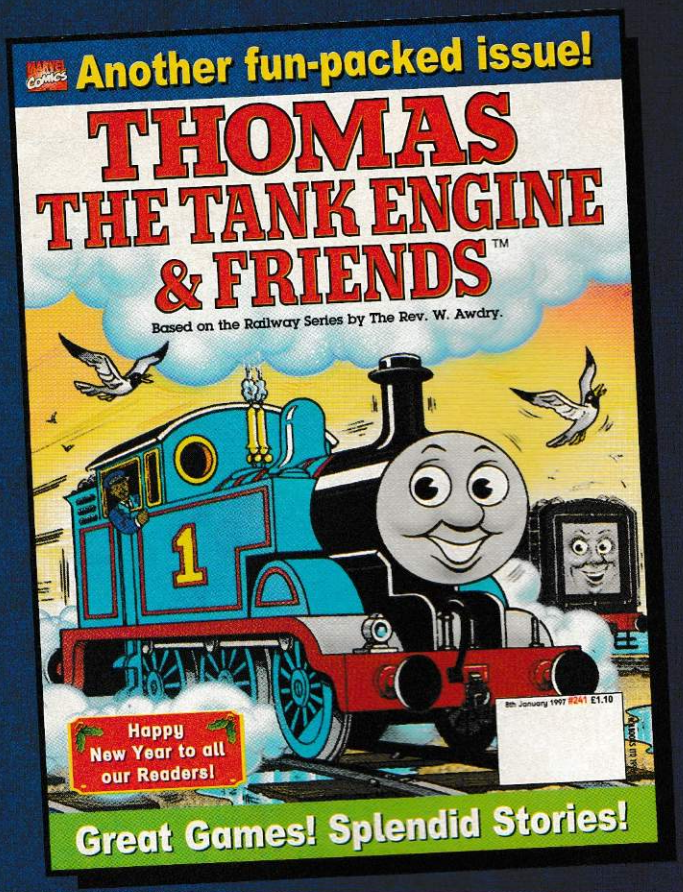
.....**Post code** .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

On occasion, we may permit other reputable companies to make offers of products or services to our customers. Please tick here if you wold prefer not to receive details of any special offers or new products. ☐

0080A

In issue 241 of . . .



THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Competition time!

Activities & games!

Colouring fun!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!

Dear Newsagent,
Please reserve / deliver all future issues of Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

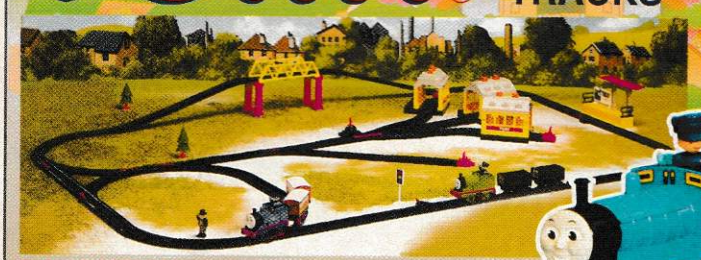
Signature of parent / guardian.....

Thank you

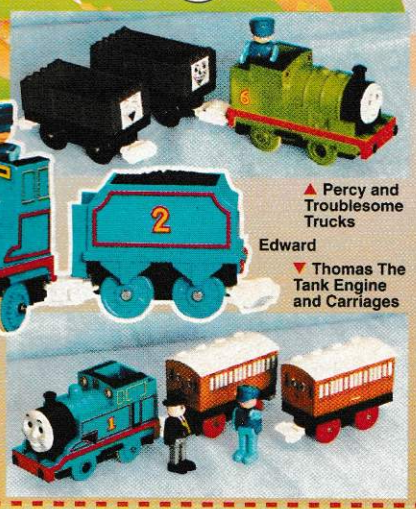
On sale from 27th December 1996!

TOMY® TRAINS and TRACKS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™



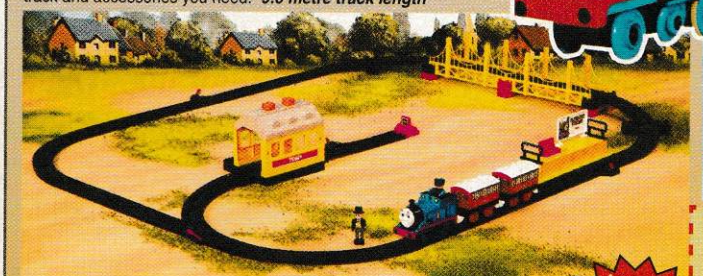
THOMAS & PERCY'S BIG ADVENTURE
This is the top of the range Thomas The Tank Engine Set with all the track and accessories you need. ***9.0 metre track length***



▲ Percy and Troublesome Trucks

Edward

▼ Thomas The Tank Engine and Carriages



THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE SET Includes 16 feet (4.8 metres) of Thomas The Tank Engine track and some superb accessories. ***4.8 m track length***

Add to your TOMY Train Set with more accessories

Card No.

Issue No. (if shown) Amount: £

Exp. Date: Tel.

Name:

Address

Post Code

Adwell Systems Ltd.
The Old Vicarage, Yarcombe
Devon EX14 9BD. England
Fax:01404 861591 Tel:01404 861363

OVERSEAS ORDERS WELCOME

Tomy Trains are chunky working engines which are easy to assemble, have clever magnetic couplings,etc. Tomy products are available by mail order from **Adwell Systems Ltd.** Send for our newsletter or complete the coupon below and post without delay. Phone your Credit/Switch Card order through on **01404 861 363.**

Products	Qty	Price £	Total
Thomas & Percy Big Adventure		79.99	
Thomas The Tank Engine Set		39.99	
Bring Along Thomas *(not illus)*		7.99	
Gordon *(not illus)*		13.99	
Edward		14.99	
Henry *(not illus)*		13.99	
James *(not illus)*		14.99	
Percy & Troublesome Trucks		18.99	
Thomas the Tank & Carriages		18.99	
Accessories for TOMY Trains			
6 Straight rails		4.49	
6 Curved rails		4.49	
2 Sloping rails		5.99	
Adapter tracks		3.49	
2 Points		4.49	
Crossover points		6.49	
Automatic 3-way points		8.49	
Y-shaped points		4.49	
Long tunnel		7.49	
Bridge and girder		7.99	
Autobridge set		13.49	
Road crossing		7.99	
Signal and Stop track		8.99	
Turntable and Engine shed		13.95	
Suspension Bridge set		11.95	
Trainwash		5.95	
Construction Wagon set		11.99	
Chug along Express		13.99	
Hi-speed Express		17.99	
Postage & Packing (UK Only)			
Orders up to £15.00 in value		1.50	
£15.00 - £30.00 in value		2.99	
Orders over £30.00 in value		FREE	
		Total Order Value £	

Please make cheques payable to '**Adwell Systems Ltd**' or Debit my Credit/Switch card, Visa, Access, Mastercard (delete as necessary).

The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Would Thomas like to be red instead of blue?
From Alyson Good, aged 7.

No indeed! Thomas loves being blue! He likes being the same colour as the old and wise engines, Gordon and Edward. I don't think James would like him to be red, do you?

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

Thanks to Toby Durr, aged 5, for this bright picture of James!

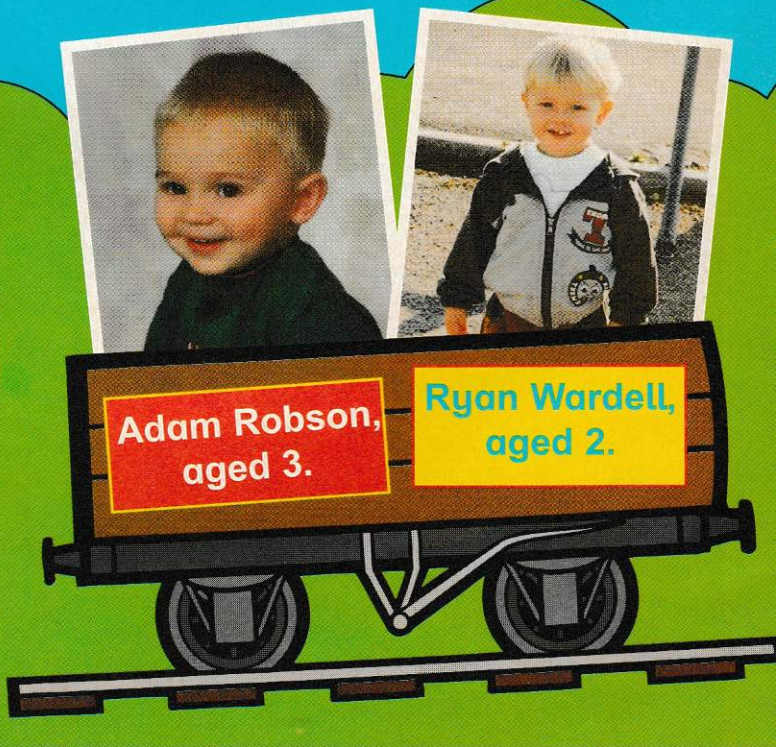
Prize Poem!

Thanks to Daniel Bergin, aged 3 1/2, for his splendid poem!

James is red and Thomas is blue,
But whatever the colour, I love you.
Bertie is sweet and Bulgy is bad,
Percy is green and never
makes me sad!

Happy Birthday

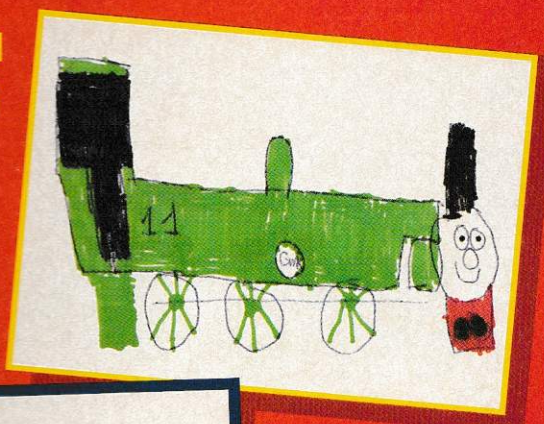
Daniel James, aged 3,
Adam Robson, aged 3,
Duncan McKinnan, aged 3,
Craig Danson, aged 2,
Drew Mason, aged 7.

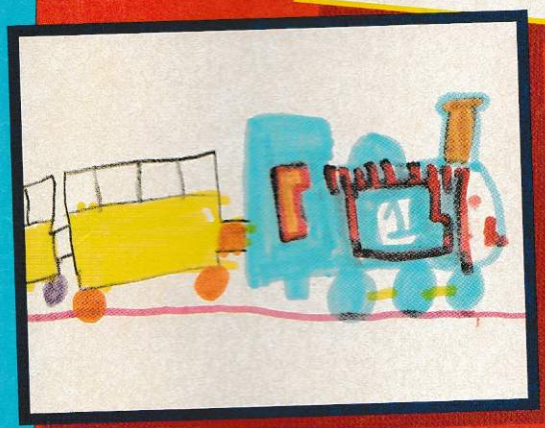


ail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

A splendid drawing of Oliver by Robert Atkinson, aged 6!





Daniel Hurndell has drawn this lovely picture of Thomas!

Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

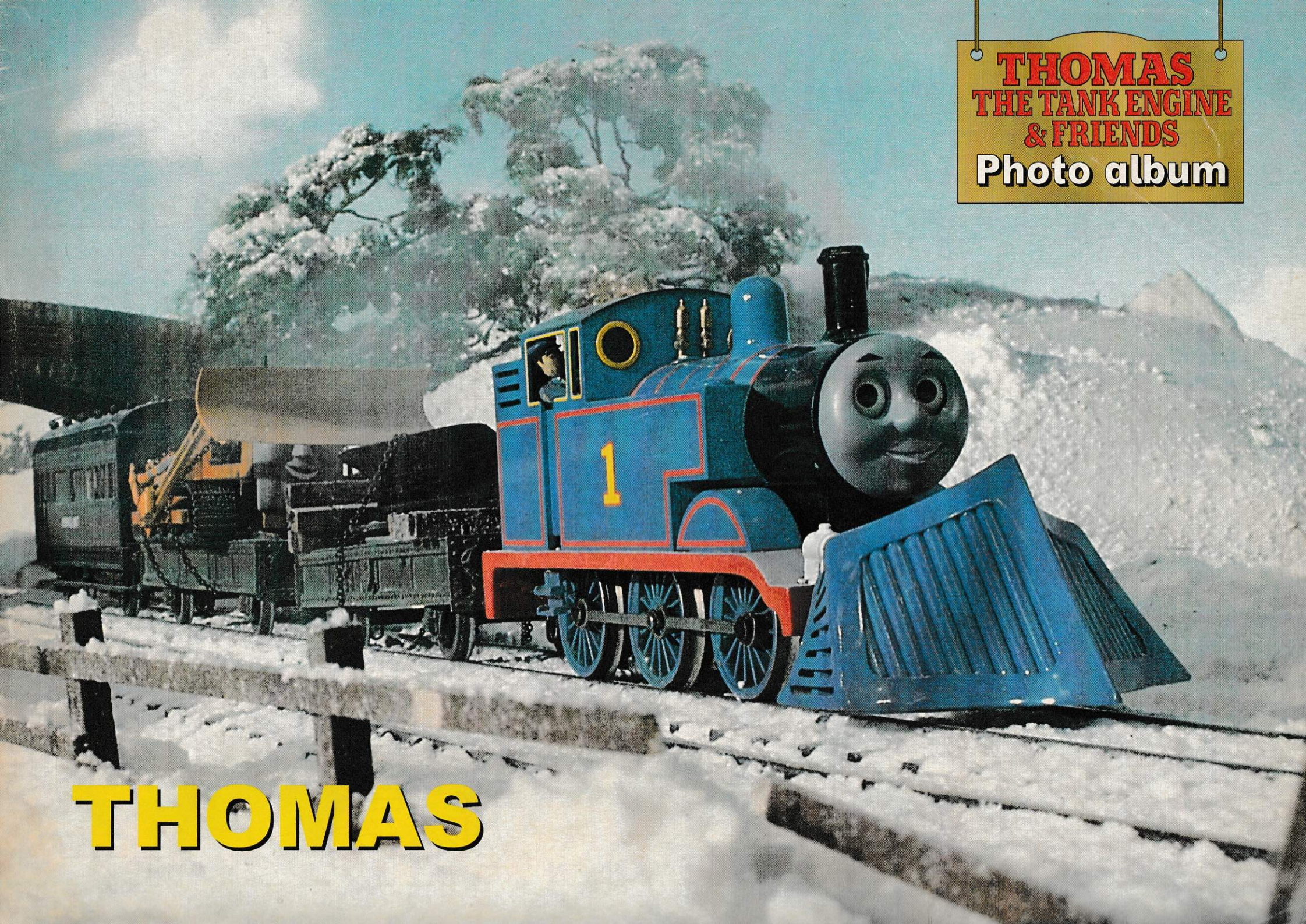
What is black and white and crosses the road?
A zebra crossing!
Matthew Hall, aged 5.

What's brown, white & yellow and goes 125 mph?
A train driver's egg sandwich!
James Cubiss, aged 5.

Where does a policeman live?
Letsby Avenue!
Daniel McGrath, aged 3.

Callum Tracey, aged 5.

Paul Justin, aged 2.


THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Photo album
1
THOMAS